

THE OAK LEAF

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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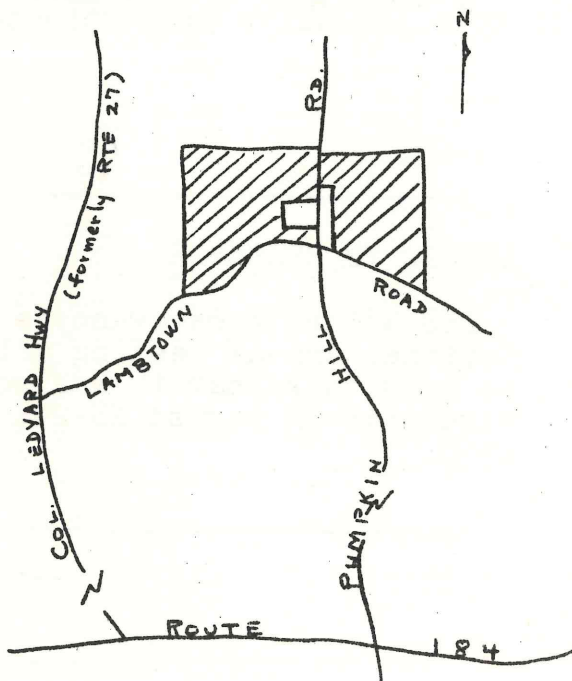
January 1970

A PIECE OF COLONIAL HERITAGE: THE PIKE NATURE PRESERVE

One of Ledyard's most lovely old colonial farms has been the gift of Mrs. H. Harvey Pike to The Nature Conservancy. The Pike's selected the Conservancy after considering many agencies because of the Conservancy's program of sound management and stability in the land preservation field.

This gift of 158 acres surrounds the grounds and house lot of the beautifully restored historical home of the Pikes and now is a sanctuary for a variety of wildlife. Overgrown pastures, wildlife plantings, mixed hardwoods and evergreens are dominant.

PIKE NATURE PRESERVE



The great-great granddaughter of one of the colonial owners looking up into "Dark Hollow", Pike Nature Preserve.

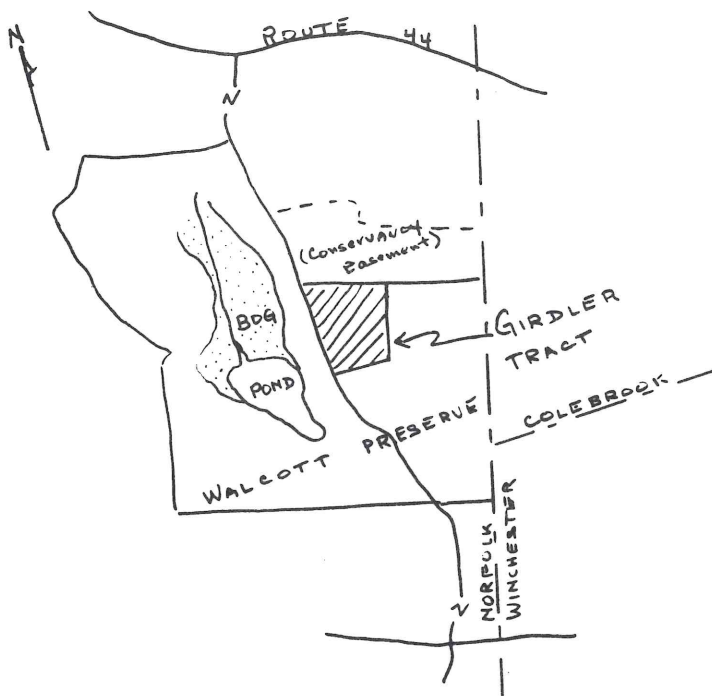
"Dark Hollow" at the western edge of the Preserve is a product of glacial gouging and is distinguished by steep ledges and cliffs. One interesting feature is an enormous free standing glacial boulder dropped in this area.

The Mashantucket Land Trust (a local four-town trust including Ledyard) has a close working relationship with the Conservancy for the Preserve. They will be serving as the Project Committee overseeing the care of the Pike Nature Preserve.

THE WALCOTT PRESERVE GROWS

A gift of 20 acres of woodland now brings the Frederic C. Walcott Preserve (Beckley Bog) in Norfolk, to 527 acres. This tract, an inholding of the Beckley Bog Tract has been preserved by Mrs. Reynolds Girdler, of Riverside, since 1966 when she acquired this important part of the Beckley Bog watershed and gave an easement to The Nature Conservancy. Now three years later she is deeding this key tract to the Conservancy "to be kept in perpetuity in its wild and natural state, for its scientific, educational, cultural and scenic benefits and value to human society."

Dedicated conservation acts, such as the donation of this tract to help preserve a unique large black spruce bog, are the heritage we hope to leave for future generations to cherish. The work of Mrs. Girdler and other members of the Kitchel Family have given us this heritage at the Walcott Preserve.



COTTRELL MARSH

Enclosed with this Newsletter is our flyer telling the Cottrell Marsh story. In response to our first mailing of a year ago, we are pleased to report that the fund drive is now for \$4,000. We thank those who have reduced this debt from the original \$60,000.

Since our last "Oak Leaf" we add the following contributors:

Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson
Appalachian Mountain Club
Mr. Charles A. Clark
Mrs. J. D. Dubois
Mrs. Frank E. Egler
Albert C. & Gladys M. Foster
Mr. George Hite
Mr. & Mrs. Phillips Jesup
Mrs. George J. Mead
Mrs. G. H. Milliken, Jr.
New Canaan Audubon Society
Mrs. Leonardee Pritchett
Mr. Oliver Sandsenter
Mr. Joseph Wilensky
Mr. Samuel Zahl

Now we ask all people who believe in the preserving of tidal marsh in Connecticut to help us raise the remaining \$4,000. Won't you please contribute to-day? If you can't, will you please pass this folder on to a friend.

NATURAL AREA PRESERVES COMMITTEE

The State System of Natural Area Preserves became a reality at long last with the enactment of Public Act 727. Dr. William A. Niering, a member of the Committee, reports that the Committee is now reviewing suggested areas for inclusion in the System.

CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

"There is a tremendous job ahead of us if we are to preserve the natural environment as it exists in Connecticut to-day." With these remarks, Mr. G. William DeSousa, of Westport, began his term of office as the newly-elected Chairman of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy on October 18, 1969. He added, "that in a time of crisis, such as now exists, we must work together where we can - with friends and neighbors - and contribute whatever each of us can do to help."

Other officers elected at the Annual Meeting held in Weston were:

V/Chairman Philip Smith, Greenwich
Secretary Mrs. Luther Strayer, Stratford
Treasurer Garrett W. Nevius, Farmington
and

Trustees, Class of 1969-72

Dana Waring, Glastonbury

Thomas Gaines, Stamford

Class of 1968-71 (to fill an un-
expired term)

Dr. Arthur B. Dayton

Other trustees continuing to serve: Robert F. Kunz, Mystic; Gordon Loery, Morris; Henry S. Beers, Glastonbury; and the past Chairmen of the last five years. Re-elected also as Membership Chairman was Miss L. G. Hundley, Stamford.

Mr. Charles A. Clark, our retiring Chairman, summarized a most full year of activity for the Chapter with dedication of acquisitions in ten Connecticut towns.

A vote of commendation to Mr. Clark was unanimously passed in recognition of his many efforts over the past two years. Also a vote of appreciation was given to our retiring officers: Thomas Gaines as Secretary and Raymond Benedict as trustee.

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON OUR CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENT

On January 15th, Governor John Dempsey addressed the first gathering of over 135 persons representing a variety of Connecticut interests who have been asked by the Governor to develop an environmental policy for our state.

The Governor stated "all the study in the world is a waste of time unless it leads to action", and then commissioned this group to make great efforts in recommending an environmental balance for Connecticut's future.

Dr. James G. Horsfall, Director of the State Agricultural Experiment Station, in accepting the chairmanship of this Committee, added "the environment is our capitol and we are spending it at a prodigious rate." He asked the Committee to propose positive steps to preserve our Connecticut environment.

The Conservancy and all of Connecticut's conservationists will be looking to this Committee with great hopes for Connecticut's future environment.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report the death of a Connecticut Chapter trustee: Dr. Arthur Bliss Dayton, who passed away on November 23, 1969 on his 80th birthday.

An ardent conservationist and life member, Dr. Dayton did much for the Conservancy. His dedication will be deeply missed. Our thoughts are with Mrs. Dayton who shared much of his work with Dr. Dayton.

HALEY FARM: Can YOU make it a reality??

The goals of the Groton Open Space Association, who have been trying to preserve the Haley Farm in Groton, have been sparked by a commitment of the State to accept \$50,000 as a fair private contribution. The original fund goal was \$100,000 toward which the Groton Open Space Association had raised \$30,000. Now, IF \$50,000 can be raised by March 1st, the State Park & Forest Commission has agreed to acquire this 260 acres of prime coastal preserve.

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association, the Connecticut Conservation Association and the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy are co-operating to help with this concentrated fund drive for the remaining \$20,000. Any Conservancy members who wish to contribute to this worthy project should make checks payable to the Connecticut Forest & Park Association and forward them to Save-the-Haley Farm, P. O. Box 389, East Hartford, Conn. 06108.

CHAPTER SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Dr. William A. Niering, the Chairman of our Chapter's Scientific Committee, has announced the appointment of the following persons to that Committee:

- Dr. Charles B. Sibley,
Peabody Museum
- Dr. F. Herbert Bormann,
Yale School of Forestry
- Dr. Frank E. Egler,
Aton Forest
- Dr. John S. Rankin,
U-Conn. Marine Research
Laboratory
- Dr. Stephen Collins,
Southern Connecticut State
College
- Mr. Sidney A. Hessel,
Nettleton Hollow, Washington,
Connecticut.

The Committee will undertake to advise on conservation research and environmental problems for our increasing number of Preserves in Connecticut.

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The Editor invites any comments concerning, or articles for, the Chapter Newsletter.